

ONLY ONE BIDDER IN FIELD FOR LOOP JOB; HIS OFFER IS REJECTED

T. W. KEYS, OF LA SALLE, MAKES OFFER FOR ABOVE ESTIMATE

WILL READVERTISE

NEW ATTEMPT TO BE MADE BY COUNCIL ON MAY, 25, WHEN NEW BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED—KEYS' OFFER BEYOND LEGAL LIMIT.

The "loop" paving went back to its old place "in the air" this morning when the board of local improvements sitting in conjunction with the city commission, were unable to let contracts for repaving the downtown district. At the letting, or rather the opening of bids, there was only one firm in the field for the work. T. W. Keys, of La Salle, constituted that lone bidder, and his figures were of such inflation that there was not a moment's consideration given of his estimate before official steps were taken to reject the offer and order the city clerk to readvertise for a new letting, on May 25.

Mr. Keys in his bid announced he would do the work for \$18,318.33—just about \$15,000 over and above Public Engineer Farnsworth's estimate. Why such an offer was made proved an unfathomable conundrum to members of the council. The law states specifically that contracts cannot be awarded where bids are in excess of ten per cent of the estimate fixed by the engineer, while Mr. Keys' figures would almost run fourteen per cent greater than the highest amount allowed by law.

As soon as the sum total of the Keys' bid was made known it was immediately recommended by Mayor Bradford that the offer be rejected forthwith and minus more ado. Mr. Keys had enclosed a certified check for ten per cent of the total cost and it was hastily returned to him while the council and improvement board went thru the process of adjourning as summarily as possible.

Many at Meeting.

A large delegation of supply and equipment men were present when the lone bid was opened and read. They came to Ottawa from all parts of the Middle West in a hope of landing a slice of the large plum to be apportioned out by the commissioners. There were only two other contractors on hand at the time—J. W. Leis and F. E. Ball—neither of whom ever cared to tackle the big proposition by bidding for it. The absence of other contractors precluded the possibility of a "pool" according to local officialdom and as a result there is some doubt whether or not any more favorable results can be secured at the next opening of bids. Although the mayor and his colleagues are hopeful of getting at least one bid within the estimate when the second letting takes place.

Engineer's Figures.

Minus cost costs of \$6,165.78, Engineer Farnsworth has estimated that the "loop" should be placed for \$102,829.61. Mr. Keys' bid in the lump was \$118,318.33, a grand total of \$15,488.72 over and above Mr. Farnsworth's figures.

When the meeting was called to order a hush fell upon the assembled crowd.

Mayor Bradford asked: "Are there any gentlemen here who desire to make a presentation to the council before the meeting is called to order?"

Mr. Keys, who sat in the rear of the executive, dug deep into his pocket and withdrew therefrom a closely sealed envelope and handed it to his honor, without words accompanying the proffer.

The envelope was turned over to City Clerk Curtis, who began reading the itemized charges for all specifications. When he reached the final set of figures in which Mr. Keys placed the "lump cost," at \$118,318.72, the hush became even more hushed than was broken only when the mayor announced the bid was far over the engineer's estimate and that the council should refuse it without wasting more time.

Commissioner Campbell moved the rejection of the bid and the motion carried unanimously. It was then ordered that the second attempt at getting a contract let be made on Friday, May 25. This motion carried, and the council as well as the board of local improvements, adjourned.

There was little disappointment manifest in city circles at the turn affairs had taken. All commissioners, Public Engineer Farnsworth and the mayor had received tips that just such a twist was probable in the proposition and were ready for the blow when the ax fell.

MEETING TONIGHT TO ARRANGE PLANS FOR PATRIOTIC DAY

CELEBRATION HERE MAY 30 PROMISES TO BE THE BIGGEST SINCE COMMEMORATION OF LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE—PARADE WILL BE FEATURE

Plans for the monstrous Patriotic Day celebration, here May 30, will be formulated at a meeting of the committees this evening in the Circuit Court room. Committees from every fraternal, labor, church, philanthropic, school, parent-teachers', and church societies and organizations are expected to attend the gathering and tell just what part their organization will take in the big celebration.

Four Bands Secured.

Four bands have been secured to furnish the music for the vast parade that will pass in review, carrying flags, etc. It is expected that hundreds of automobiles will be in line and that the celebration here will be the biggest since the commemoration of the Lincoln-Douglas debate, in 1908.

Every organization in the city will be called upon to do their "bit" which will be mostly in seeing that their members are in the line of march on May 30.

Co. C and the high school military units will be featured in the military activity of the parade, while it is expected that the Red Cross unit at the high school and the newly organized Red Cross organization will also be in line.

School Children.

It is estimated that between fifteen hundred and two thousand school children from the public and parochial schools of the city, will be in line, and in addition to this an invitation has been extended to the school children in the rural districts in this vicinity to join in the line.

Will Carry Flags.

Arrangements are now being made to furnish all of the school children with flags.

To Decorate Buildings.

Old Glory will breeze forth from every business building in the "loop," and in addition to this merchants in the outlying districts will, decorate their places.

Labor organization, this year, are showing much activity, they have donated the services of a band at their own cost. The Dayton Farmers' Improvement association made a similar donation, and the high school band and drum corps have offered their services also. It was ordered at the last meeting to secure two more bands.

Senator McGill.

Senator McGill has been invited to address the audience, at the meeting in the high school auditorium. The members of the Trades and Labor assembly will also have a speaker here on the occasion.

At the gathering tonight the work accomplished thus far will be reported and committees named to assist in the big parade.

Captain Charles L. Gopen, will be the field marshal of the day, and this evening it is expected that he will announce the assistance he has chosen to help in keeping the line of march in order.

A report of the amounts donated for the celebration will also be received this evening. It is expected that the plans will be entirely perfected following the discussion.

The committees in charge of the work, earnestly request that a large number be present.

The committee has issued the following stirring appeal in which it calls upon Ottawans to make the Patriotic celebration the greatest ever held in the county:

Ottawa vs. La Salle.

There has been a rivalry always between Ottawa and La Salle, sometimes good natured, sometimes not so amicable. Whenever Ottawa felt the odds were against her some of our people, refuge in the consoling thought: "Well, they are a lot of foreigners down there in La Salle." The fact that we are all foreigners in this country does not dawn on this class of people. Even the Indians are not

(Continued on Page 3.)

MOTHER PLEADS FOR SON'S RETURN HOME MESSAGE TO KOENIG

MRS. LENORA BURCH SENDS FOR SON—HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH OF STERLING, KANSAS, WILL RETURN HOME—KOENIG TAKES INTEREST IN LAD.

Because justice of peace George T. Koenig took a fatherly interest in Eugene Burch, 16 years of age, he may be the means of restoring him to his mother, sisters and brothers at Sterling, Kansas.

Young Burch left home April 14. A mother, with a mother's love, prayed for his return. She worried herself almost to death, and when word was sent to her that her son had been arrested here by Deputy Sheriff Arthur Barrett, she sent word back that a ticket would be sent to Ottawa, or that if necessary she would come to take the youth in charge.

Young Burch, a sophomore in the Sterling high school left home suddenly, cards were printed and a description of the youth sent to every police court in the country, but no word of the lad's whereabouts was received until his arrest here.

Last Friday the youngster was taken in custody together with Tony Sargeant, from Beaver, Wisconsin. Burch was brought up for hearing before Justice Koenig, but at first declined to tell his home or address. Finally after a long quizzing Burch told his address and Justice Koenig wrote a letter to the lad's mother, telling her that the youth had been arrested in company with Sargeant, and that if she did not come for him he would see to it that the youth was given work on the farm.

The following is the letter which Justice Koenig received from the boy's mother:

Mr. George T. Koenig,

Ottawa Illinois.
Kind Sir: I am sending you a picture, with the description of my son, and should it be him, will send you a ticket for his return home. Is there any way that you could fix it to make certain that he will return home, in case he might take a notion and only so part way.

He has always been a good boy and it has broken my heart, his leaving home. I am sending you also a clipping from our town paper so you will understand him better. I am a poor woman and have raised him and three younger children by hard work for the last ten years, and have not the money necessary for both tickets, unless it is absolutely necessary. But he might take a notion and stop by the way and enlist, and oh, I need him so bad to help me as my health is very poor.

I am very grateful to you for the interest you have taken in my son, if it be him, more than words can express. Should it be him wire me a night letter, at my expense, and tell me if I had better come, for to lose my boy would surely kill me.

A grateful mother.

MRS. LENORA BURCH.

Enclosed in the letter was a message to the boy, beseeching him to return and telling him that she has already secured work for him. The message at this time comes rather fitting since only Sunday Mother's day was celebrated.

Justice Koenig announced that he would wire the lad's mother, advising her to come after the youth.

Sargeant, with whom young Burch had fallen in company with, was taken to his home in Beaver, Wisconsin, when his parents, too, came to this city for him.

PRINCETON MAN WHO SLEW WIFE ESCAPES PRISON HONOR FARM

Ottawa police officials and the sheriff's office have been called upon to assist in the capture of Charles Richards, 37 years old, an "honor" convict who Sunday afternoon broke his "trust" with the state and escaped from the prison farm. His disappearance was discovered when the night count was made. A posse searched the vicinity of the farm for the missing convict without results.

Richards has been on the farm for more than a year. He was received in the penitentiary in 1911 from Bureau county on a charge of murder. He was convicted of killing his wife and sentenced to a life term. Richards has been a model prisoner, penitentiary attaches say, and last year when he petitioned the parole board to be placed on the honor farm, his request was granted without objection.

The missing convict was employed in the field fence gang on the farm. Sunday afternoon he told the farm officials he was going to look over the farm to see where new fences should be installed. That was the last seen of him.

EXTRA

LARGE BRITISH SHIP TORPEDOED

London, May 15—The British steamship *Abosso*, 7,782 tons, has been sunk by a German submarine with the loss of ninety lives, it was announced today. Of the dead 44 were seamen and 46 passengers. The torpedo was fired without warning.

BUSINESS MEN ARE "DOING THEIR BIT"

FORTY OR MORE TAKE PRELIMINARY LESSONS IN THE ART OF WARFARE UNDER GUIDANCE OF CAPT. R. C. WOODWARD.

"Doing their bit," so that they can be ready when their country demands they shoulder the gun and be assigned to duty wherever Uncle Sam may need them, some forty-odd business men and employees of "loop" stores learned their first lesson in military tactics under the direction of Capt. R. C. Woodward at the armory last night.

Aiding the commander of Co. C were Lieut. S. W. Raymond and men from the ranks, and when the evening's training was brought to a close the "recruits" showed plainly the result of their first lesson. The manner in which Capt. Woodward imbued them with the military spirit and the stuff that goes to make a soldier, was nothing short of marvelous.

The drill was without arms, the evening being devoted entirely to squad and company formations, followed by a half hour's calisthenics to get the looseness and stiffness out of the muscles. This latter work is fast becoming one of the most important phases of army life, the war lords having learned that development of the body and the preservation of its natural resources are highly essential in good soldiering.

So much enthusiasm was manifested last night that Capt. Woodward will continue to hold these business men's drills at regular intervals until he and his command are called to the front. While many of the "recruits" will never see active service their moral support of the undertaking will have a telling effect upon recruiting at Co. C where at least fifty eligible youths are needed to bring the command up to war strength.

While enlistments are pouring in steadily they are not coming rapidly enough to satisfy Capt. Woodward and Lieut. Raymond. They would like to get the company up to war strength in the next few days. By so doing they could get the recruits in condition for places in ranks by the time the call to colors comes.

OTTAWA BOAT CLUB NAME NEW DIRECTORS

At a meeting last evening at the Ottawa Boat Club, new directors to serve on the board of nine were chosen. The newly elected directors were W. I. Hibbs, George Wiley, Fred Sanders and Fred Spuerger. They will serve with Dr. E. H. Herzog, Lothrop Perkins, V. J. Duncan, Fred Knowles and Charles Sanders. From this number the officers of the club will be chosen. A smoker and social session followed last night's election.

MRS. CARUS SIGNS BOND OF PLOTTER

According to Chicago papers Mrs. Mary Carus of La Salle, signed the \$25,000 bail of Albert Wehde, alleged participant in a plot to foment a revolution in India, who sought on Saturday to secure a reduction of the bond before Judge Landis.

Henry Freeman, counsel for Wehde, argued that the alleged offense was committed more than two years ago, and that even if the bail were fixed at 10 cents Wehde would not run away. Assistant District Attorney Fleming, however, said that the conspiracy is continuing and a lot of big men are mixed up in it.

Mrs. Carus was allowed to sign as one of the two securities and the second will sign today unless new complications arise.

HAMMER STOLEN FROM BLACKSMITH SHOP

The blacksmith shop of Charles Meyer, located on Madison street near the side-cut canal, was entered by thieves last evening and a hammer and a few chisels stolen.

The thieves gained entrance to the shop by prying open a window. No arrests have been made.

OTTAWA OFFICERS LEARN SOLDIERING IS NOT ALL PLAY

"ROOKIES" AT FT. SHERIDAN HAVE "NOTHING TO DO BUT WORK" AS DAY'S PUBLISHED PROGRAM EVINCES.

Ottawa "rookie" officers, together with the several thousand others who aspire to commissions in the service of Uncle Sam during the emergency occasioned by the tilt with Kaiser Bill and his junkers, today started their real grind in learning just what goes to constitute a leader in the army.

Ten Ottawa recruits are stationed at Ft. Sheridan, two are headed for Ft. Benj. Harrison, Indiana, and one at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. They are brim full of pep and vinegar, according to word sent home to indulgent parents and are grabbing hold of army regulations with an astuteness that spells their certain ascension to the rank of line officers at the conclusion of the training.

The boys at Fort Sheridan are part of a regiment made up entirely of Illinois men. For three months their tour of duty will include little else than work—and that in abundance as the schedule of routine made public today discloses. The day has a few fifteen minute periods where the embryo officers can snatch a "pipetful" or toss a ball around, but otherwise there is nothing to do but toll and learn.

Former City Attorney Taylor Strawn, Willard Gay, John Cassidy, Carl B. Whitney, Melville Clark, Layton Yentzer, Ernest Pool, W. C. Clark and Daniel Curtis, comprise the local corps at Fort Sheridan, Lloyd Knapp, another Ottawa boy, is at Ft. Oglethorpe, while Harry Kelly and Richard Dunne have been assigned to Ft. Benj. Harrison in Indiana.

The day's training as practiced at Ft. Sheridan will be in vogue throughout all other camps. This is the program that confronts the soldiers upon arising the first thing in the morning:

7:30 a. m.—Organization of company, beds and lockers, and barrack regulations.

9:10-10 a. m.—Conference, I. D. R., pages 7 to 14 inclusive.

10:30-noon—Drill. School of soldier, one-half hour. School of squad, close and extended. School of order, without arms one hour (ten minutes voice).

12 p. m.—Drill, sighting.

2:15-2:45 p. m.—Drill, physical.

2:4 p. m.—Practice march, without arms, south or west.

7:20-9:30 p. m.—Study—Manual of interior guard duty, paragraphs 140 inclusive. Semaphore, sighting, school of soldier.

JOSEPH CHOATE DIES, WAS EX-DIPLOMAT

New York, May 15—Telegrams of condolence from hundreds of men and women in private and public life poured in today at the home of Joseph Hodges Choate eminent trial lawyer, statesman and diplomat, who died suddenly last night. They came not only from almost every state in the Union, but from far and wide abroad. Mr. Choate was 85 years old.

Mr. Choate's death came as a climax to three days of strenuous effort as a member of the entertainment committee that welcomed the French and British war commissions to New York. It was unexpected and no physician was present. Only Mrs. Choates and their daughter, Miss Mabel, were at the bedside.

WILL LECTURE ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Frank Bell, a member of the Board of Lectureship of First Church of Christ Scientists, will lecture tonight at the Gayety theatre, under the auspices of the local church, upon the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy. Mr. Bell is recognized as one of the leading lecturers in Christian Science work and he should be heard by a large audience. There will be no charge and the general public is invited to hear him.

ROY WATERS JOINS ARMY IN Q. M. DEPT.

Roy Waters, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Waters, of East Ottawa, leaves tomorrow morning for Fort Riley, Kansas, where he will enter the regular army as a member of the Quartermaster's Department. Mr. Waters will take up his new work as soon as he arrives at the Fort. Notification of his acceptance has been received and hurried preparations were made for early departure for the Kansas Headquarters.

VETO IS ALL THAT CAN STOP T. R. FROM TAKING TROOPS TO FRANCE

AURORA RACE MEN IN OTTAWA TODAY TO ARRANGE MEET

AURORA, MENDOTA AND STREATOR WILL OFFER RACING PROGRAM IF OTTAWA FAILS TO GIVE MEETING—AMUSEMENT CLUB MAY TAKE REINS.

Aurora and Mendota will each hold a race meeting this year whether Ottawa remains in the circuit or not. This was practically decided at a conference held between the interested parties in this city this afternoon.

The principal stock holders of Aurora association are anxious to continue the racing game and a meeting will be held there in any event. They would prefer to give a meeting in Ottawa than in Mendota but in case Ottawa remains out of the game this year the meeting will be held in Mendota and probably Streator.

Certain members of the Ottawa Driving Park Association would rather not give a meeting this year and show the La Salle County Fair association that their annual contribution of \$400 is not to be despised.

But on the other hand there are a number of Ottawa people who are anxious to see a race meeting given in this city and if the Ottawa Driving Park Association will throw up their hands and say their out of it, there will be somebody willing and anxious enough to continue the racing game in Ottawa.

Those who were in the city this afternoon to talk over the race meeting were, E. Beckwith, Aurora; E. Swantz, Mendota; Dr. Weese, of Aurora; J. M. Eby and Al Sweringen, of Mendota.

Factions Divided.

Apparently there are two factions now existing, in regard to a race meeting. Certain members of the La Salle County Fair, it is known were opposed to race meeting, simply because they feared the Ottawa Driving Park Association, was making a large amount of money.

As a matter of fact the meeting here last year was conducted at a loss, but it is believed the game could be revived, and put on a firm financial footing, either by the Ottawa Driving Park Association, or in outside organizations, provided they were not hampered with.

The Ottawa Amusement Club, it is known, have been asked to take over the race meeting here and put on a program but up to the present time have declined to do so for reason of the fact that two factions are existing, one that would hamper their attempts to put on a successful meet, and another who do not want racing.

At the meeting this afternoon, it is expected that a definite decision will be reached in regard to the racing game in Ottawa and the Illinois Valley.

MISS E. M. PETTETT BRIDE OF F. J. HANLEY

Miss Eva May Pettitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Pettitt, of Chillicothe, Ill., and Mr. Frank J. Hanley, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hanley, of Lacon, Ill., were quietly married at the home of the bride's uncle, Fred L. Jones, 1104 Ottawa avenue, at 8:30 last evening. The ring service was used. Rev. Chas. A. Briggs, Jr., pastor of the First Methodist church, officiated.

The bride was unattended and only the immediate families were present. Previous to the ceremony Mrs. Guy V. Minnis, aunt of the bride, played "O Promise Me," as the bridal pair took their places. The bride carried a shower bouquet of sweet peas and lilies of the valley. The Jones home was decorated in pink and green.

Following a wedding repast the newlyweds departed on their honeymoon trip, but are expected to return to Ottawa for a visit, then proceed to Lacon, their future home, and will be home to their friends after June 1.

WELFARE LEAGUE TO MEET HERE SATURDAY

The annual meeting of the Child Welfare League of La Salle county will be held in Ottawa at the court house next Saturday.

CONSCRIPTION BILL IS ALMOST READY FOR PRESIDENT

PRESS GAG IS DEAD

ATTEMPT TO REVIVE CENSORSHIP FAILS IN SENATE—EXPECT FIGHT ON CLAUSE GIVING PRESIDENT RIGHT TO PROCLAIM EMBARGO.

Washington, May 15—Without a hitch, the conferees on the conscription bill today reached a complete agreement, embodying the Harding amendment authorizing acceptance of Col. Roosevelt's offer to raise a division for overseas service.

The promptness with which the conferees today prepared equally quick action in both houses on the conscription bill, it was believed. The conference report will be submitted to the House first and as the Roosevelt amendment has already been voted upon there it is expected will be concurred in without delay.

Altho there is some dissatisfaction in the Senate over the age limit of 21 to 30, inclusive, fixed by the conferees, sentiment is strongly opposed to holding up the bill longer and indications are that the upper house will accept the conference report without much debate. Those in charge of the measure hoped to have the bill ready for the President's signature by Thursday.

Washington, May 15.—The fight to send an army of Roosevelt volunteers to France was back in conference between the Senate and House today. The result will spell victory for the plans of the former president. Only veto of the entire conscription bill by President Wilson himself can halt the legislation necessary to permit the enlistment of rough riders to enlarge upon the plan which made him one of the romantic figures of the Spanish war.

When the House conferees, headed by Chairman Dent, of the military affairs committee, went over to meet the Senate managers today, there was nothing for them to do but agree to the Roosevelt army. The Senate previously had voted for the volunteers.

Certain anti-Roosevelt influences in the House among members from districts unfriendly to the colonel and to conscription, were trying today to rally forces for a final assault when the conference report comes back to the House. These members allege that the letting of the bars down to permit Roosevelt to raise his volunteers defeats the purpose of President Wilson, who declared that a measure half volunteers and half conscription would not be acceptable either at the White House nor the war department. But having conceded so much to the volunteer system, these opponents of conscription are now talking about a further motion to recommit the conscription bill with instructions to have the conferees stand out for a volunteer system altogether. But the idea has little following.

The probabilities are that the bill authorizing the Roosevelt volunteers but retaining the conscription legislation as already agreed to, will be ready for the President's signature by tomorrow night.

Washington, May 15.—Censorship is dead, embalmed and buried, and hope of its resurrection has been entirely abandoned by the administration. Concurrence of the House in the Senate's action in striking the censorship provision from the bill is expected as a matter of course.

The espionage bill, nicknamed the "Mother Hubbard bill," because of the multitude of subjects it covers, was ready for committee conference today. The decisive defeat of the censorship clause on the final roll call yesterday and the edited instructions of the Senate to the conferees to insist on the adoption of its construction of the bill furnished the basis for the assertion that there would be no further effort to revive the espionage section.

A bitter fight is expected in conference. The Senate amendment authorizing the President to declare an embargo on any export to any country is likely to be stubbornly contested. Predictions were made that several weeks might elapse before the espionage bill would be sent to the President.

Washington, May 15.—Proposals to divide the enemies in the world war

(Continued on Page 3.)